

## **Message by Pastor Dapo Akinosun**

### **How should we present the Gospel?**

#### **Bible Reading: Matthew 3:1-6**

The dictionary defines evangelism as noun the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness. The Bible has a myriad examples of how believers evangelized and won souls for Christ. Even before the coming of Christ, there were those like John the Baptist who went out spreading the good news of Jesus' coming and calling sinners to repentance (Matthew 3:1-6).

Unlike John the Baptist, many evangelize today with a view of presenting themselves and their ministries. This is obviously not the purpose of evangelism and such behavior is rooted in pride and vainglory, both of which are not of Christ. Evangelism is intended to present the gospel to lost souls in a manner that exemplifies the love of Christ, the sacrifice of His love through the shedding of His blood; and the opportunity that we all have to reconcile ourselves unto Him towards eternal life.

This means that the way in which we present the gospel should reflect Christ. In that light, the following should be followed:

1. Pray for the lost souls and ask God for direction on where to go and who to evangelize to. The Bible says that Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). There is an appointed time for everybody and everything; and we need to know God's plan for our evangelism.
2. Present the truth – do not embellish or add things that are not in scripture. We must worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
3. Be presentable – dress decently. Let your dressing reflect and glorify Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:20)
4. Make the Gospel interesting and not fearful. Be clear about what you are saying and be confident in what you speak. (1 Peter 3:15)

I remember when I used to have Jehovah's witnesses visiting my house. I was a teenager and very impressionable. They came when my parents were not at home and just strolled into our compound where there were other houses as well. They came on foot and were always very neatly dressed. The pamphlet was called Awake and I remember it having stories that I loved to read. It was interesting and each of the stories had a moral. I enjoyed them. There were pictures and sometimes puzzles. The people who came to my house were always nice and not at all judgmental. There were pleasant, approachable and always willing to explain. (1 Peter 3:15). I would later learn that there was one major problem, their presentation was fabulous, but their message was of a false religion that has altered the Bible to reflect their ideology.

That has taught me something. It shows that the message preach is as important as how we preach it. They were preaching falsehoods but because their presentation was great, it drew my attention.

How have you been presenting the Gospel? Evangelism is not just about going out and preaching the Gospel. How do you show love, understanding and patience in preaching the Gospel? God will help us in the name of Jesus.